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November 11, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. KISSINGER

FROM: JOHN H. HOLDRIDGE

SUBJECT: Intensity of the Vietnam War

I know you are already aware that the intensity of the war in Vietnam has fallen off rather sharply since early this summer. However, some of the indicators confirming this might be of interest:

-- Casualties: Casualties are down quite sharply on both sides; average weekly killed in action on our side since July has been 150, for the other side, 872. Comparable average weekly figures for the first half of 1971 were 580 and 2,496 respectively. Even those figures represent a substantial drop from the all-time high in 1968 when the weekly average ran at 695 and 3,530.

-- Average Weekly VC/NVA Attacks and Ambushes: Since July weekly Communist attacks and ambushes in SVN have averaged 21. This compares with an average of 57.1 in the first half of 1971 and a weekly average in the high 60's or middle 70's during the preceding 3 years.

-- Infiltration: These figures are also down and thusfar in this dry season virtually no infiltrators have entered the pipeline destined for COSVN. We should have a better infiltration picture, however, when we get the CIA report you have already requested.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS  
APPLY

MORI/CDF per C05099601

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